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Application No.: 10/664,671

Docket No.: JCLA12230-R

REMARKS

Present Status of the Application

The Office Action allowed claims 13-25. Under 35 U.S.C. 102(b), claims 1-5 and 7 were rejected as being anticipated by Stanjek et al. (US 6440328, as "Stanjek") or CAPLUS 2000: 772323 ('323), claims 1 and 3-5 and the compound (a) in claim 7 rejected as being anticipated by CAPLUS 1973: 536255 ('255). Claims 9-10 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Stanjek or '323. Claims 6, 8 and 11-12 were objected to as depending upon rejected base claims.

In response thereto, Applicants have further amended claims 1 and 7 and submitted the following remarks. Reconsideration of claims 1-12 is respectfully requested.

Discussions of Rejections to Claims 1-5 & 7 under 35 U.S.C. 102(b)

Claims 1-5 and 7 were rejected as being anticipated by Stanjek or '323, and claims 1 and 3-5 and compound (a) in claim 7 by '255. Please note that independent claims 1 and 7 have been further amended to limit Z^4 such that only the $-CH_2$ — directly bonded with A^4 in Z^4 as α, ω -alkylene having 3 or 4 carbon atoms may be substituted with $-O_{-}$, $-S_{-}$, $-COO_{-}$ or $-OCO_{-}$.

When m=n=1 corresponding to the case of claim 1 or 7, Stanjek's formula (1) is:

$$Z-Y^1-A^2-Y^2-M-O-A^1-O-C-C-C+2$$
 acrylate

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Hence, the group between A^1 (= A^4 in claim 1/7) and carbonyl, which corresponds to Z^4 in claim 1/7, is $-O-A^1-O-$ with A^1 being a carbon chain of <u>2</u>-20 atoms (Stanjek's claim 1), which corresponds to α,ω -alkylene of <u>4</u>-22 carbon atoms with **both** of the two terminal $-CH_2$ substituted with -O-. However, for Z^4 as α,ω -alkylene having <u>4</u> carbon atoms in amended claim 1/7, only the terminal $-CH_2$ - directly bonded with A^4 may be substituted, while the terminal $-CH_2$ - directly bonded with carbonyl is not substituted.

Moreover, the group corresponding to Z^4 in claim 1 or 7 in the compound of RN 302897-21-8 in '323 is $-O-(CH_2)_4$, which has to be derived from α,ω -alkylene having \underline{S} carbon atoms. Since Z^4 as α,ω -alkylene is limited to have 1-4 carbon atoms in claims 1 and 7 and therefore has 4 carbon atoms at most, claim 1 or 7 does not overlap with '323 even before being amended.

On the other hand, the group in the compound of RN 41507-64-6 in '255 between the benzene ring (=A⁴) and the carbonyl group, which corresponds to Z^4 in claim 1 or 7, is -O-CH₂-, which corresponds to α , ω -alkylene with 2 carbon atoms wherein one -CH₂- is substituted with -O-. In amended claim 1/7, however, only α , ω -alkylene having 3 or 4 carbon atoms as Z^4 may be substituted.

Therefore, amended independent claims 1 and 7 each does not overlap with Stanjek or '255, while claims 1 and 7 each does not overlap with '323 even before being amended.

For at least the above reasons, Applicants respectfully submit that claims 1 & 7 and claims 2-5 dependent from claim 1 all patently define over the prior art.

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Discussions of 103(a) Rejections/Objections to Claims 9-10/6, 8 & 11-12

As mentioned above, none of Stanjek, '255 and '323 discloses the above limitation of

amended independent claim 1 or 7. Because claims 9-10 and claims 6, 8 & 11-12 are dependent

from claims 1 and 7, they all inherit the same limitation. For at least the above reason,

Applicants respectfully submit that claims 6 and 8-12 dependent from claims 1 and 7 also

patently define over the prior art.

CONCLUSION

For at least the foregoing reasons, it is believed that the pending claims 1-12 are in proper

condition for allowance like claims 13-25 are. If the Examiner believes that a telephone conference

would expedite the examination of the above-identified patent application, the Examiner is invited

to call the undersigned.

4 Venture, Suite 250 Irvine, CA 92618

Tel.: (949) 660-0761

Fax: (949)-660-0809

Respectfully submitted,

J.C. PATENTS

Jiawei Huang

Registration No. 43,330